

THE DIRECTOR OF  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment 25 July 1979

SIGNATURE

REC'D  
26 July

NOTE FOR: The Director

Stan

On topics like this I think these dinners should be used mainly to educate the Agency participants. Hence, I think we should make sure that we include a number of outsiders who can bring expertise to the discussion. While the first four outside guests seem to meet this criterion, five assistant secretaries or deputies will probably contribute little from direct knowledge.



Robert R. Bowie

Attachment

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Executive Registry

79-1737

NFAC #3846/79

24 July 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA : Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment

FROM : Associate Coordinator for Academic Relations, NFAC

SUBJECT : Economic, Political and Social Consequences of  
Urbanization in Less Developed Countries

1. Action Requested: Approval of this proposal to schedule a discussion/dinner on the above subject. The date Thursday, 20 September, has been set aside on your calendar for this purpose.

2. Background: One of the most prominent and visible trends in developing countries is the rapid growth of cities. High birth rates and massive migration from rural to urban areas are causing city populations to expand at rates which far outstrip the abilities of governments or private sectors to provide adequate jobs, food, housing, transportation, clean water and air, public sanitation, and social services for these new urban dwellers. Indeed current levels of urbanization in many less developed countries exceed those historically attained by the European countries at a much more advanced stage of development.

3. A popular belief is that uncontrolled city growth and its accompanying problems are inherently threatening to the political stability of the countries in which it occurs. The argument is that rapid urbanization creates a highly visible, severely discontented mass of people close to the centers of power who are likely to make demands on the society for goods and services that cannot possibly be met. Because traditional values (especially respect for authority) break down in the anomic urban setting and rising expectations for improved living conditions are frustrated, the belief is violence and attacks on authority will result almost inevitably. Recent rioting in Tehran, Monrovia, and Istanbul lend credence to this view.

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4. Nonetheless, this perception of the consequences of rapid urbanization appears to be too simplistic. Conditions in many large cities have deteriorated over the last decade far beyond the point at which Western observers might have expected an explosive reaction, yet the cities remain outwardly calm and pose no obvious threat to political stability. One conclusion that can be reached, therefore, is that the relationship between rapid urbanization and the likelihood of significant political consequences is extremely complex. The key to treating rapid urbanization as a valid topic of intelligence inquiry is to search out and understand those intervening social, economic, and political factors that can convert exploding urban growth into the kinds of problems that threaten political stability and demand the attention of US policymakers.

5. The following are the participants proposed for that event:

Outside Guests

Wayne Cornelius	University of California, San Diego
Brian J.L. Berry	Harvard University
Joan Nelson	Johns Hopkins University
Bill Hance	Columbia University
Richard M. Moose	Assistant Secretary, African Affairs, State Department
✱ John Bushnell	Deputy Assistant Secretary, Inter- American Affairs, State Department
Richard Holbrooke	Assistant Secretary, East Asian-Pacific Affairs, State Department
Harold Saunders	Assistant Secretary, Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, State Department
✱ Arnold Nachmanoff	Deputy Assistant Secretary for Developing Nations, Treasury

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Inside Guests

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D/NFAC

NFAC/CAR

D/OPA

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[REDACTED]

OPA

D/OGCR

STAT

[REDACTED]

OGCR

D/OER

STAT

[REDACTED]

OER

Although 18 people are proposed for invitations, we expect some of the outside guests may have previous commitments.

6. Recommendation: That you approve the subject and date of the proposed discussion/dinner so that planning may proceed. Please indicate your approval or disapproval of the proposed guests.

[REDACTED]

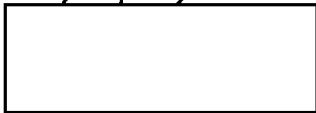
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APPROVED:




Director of Central Intelligence

DISAPPROVED:

Director of Central Intelligence

DATE: 28 JUL 1979

Approved For Release 2005/01/10 : CIA-RDP86B00985R000200210015-2

TRANSMITTAL SHEET		DATE 26 July 79
TO: The Director		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	
REMARKS: <u>No DDO PARTICIPANTS</u>  DDO would appear to have less direct connection and interest in this subject, however, if no appropriate DDO rep is invited, there ought to at least be a mechanism to provide DDO with feed back so that its developing country reps can determine what impact there may be on ops and future development in the areas where they are your representatives.		
FROM: RRR 		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	EXTENSION

Approved For Release 2005/01/10 : CIA-RDP86B00985R000200210015-2